

CLAIM AMENDMENTS

Please amend the claims as follows:

CLAIMS

1. (Currently Amended) ~~Kit~~ A kit for introduction of a plastic surgery implant-(1) into the body of a patient comprising:

(a)- a plastic surgery implant (1)-designed to be implanted in the body of a patient, said implant (1)-presenting a deformable character which makes it possible for it to pass from a configuration for introduction into the body to a functional configuration within the body,

(b)- a case (2)-shaped to envelope said implant (1)-in the introduction configuration, said case (2) being provided with an opener member (3)-that can be activated by positive action making it possible for it to pass on the one hand from a closed configuration, in which it confines implant (1)-in its introduction configuration to, on the other hand, an open configuration, in which it enables deformation of said implant-(1) into its functional configuration, said case (2)-comprising a locking means-(4), linked functionally to the opener member (3)-and making it possible to immobilise by itself, without any external action on said means-(4), case (2) in the closure configuration, ~~said kit being characterised in that~~ wherein said case-(2) is provided with a thread-(12) having a first portion sewn as a single-thread chain stitch so as to form said locking means-(4), and having a second portion-(14) that remains free and forms the opener member-(3), actionable by traction.

2. (Currently Amended) ~~Kit~~ The kit as claimed in claim 1, ~~characterised in that~~ wherein said case-(2) comprises a sheath-(5) fitted with at least one lateral opening arranged (6)-along its length, said opening-(6) being closed by said locking means-(4) when case-(2) is in the closed configuration and said opening (6)-being cleared, to make possible deformation of implant (1) into its functional configuration, when case (2)-is in the open configuration.

3. (Currently Amended) ~~Kit~~ The kit of ~~as claimed in claim 2, characterised in that~~ wherein said sheath (5) presents an essentially tubular shape and is split over all or part of its length, said split making up lateral opening (6).

4. (Currently Amended) ~~Kit~~ The kit of ~~as claimed in one of claims 2 or 3, characterised in that~~ wherein said sheath (5) is constructed from a flexible material.

5. (Currently Amended) ~~Kit~~ The kit of ~~as claimed in one of claims 2 to 4, characterised in that~~ wherein said sheath (5) is formed from a fabric whose two opposite edges (8A, 8B) are interlocked by locking means (4), ~~in such a way~~ such that the fabric is shaped in an essentially tubular way.

6. (Currently Amended) ~~Kit~~ The kit of ~~as claimed in claim 5, characterised in that~~ wherein said ~~the~~ fabric is constructed by weaving of threads of material principally based on polyamide, of the nylon[®] thread type.

7. (Currently Amended) ~~Kit~~ The kit ~~as claimed in one of claims 2 to 6, characterised in that~~ wherein the periphery of lateral opening (6) is fitted with eyelets (13), designed to be assembled by single-thread chain stitch sewing in order to close said opening (6).

8. (Currently Amended) ~~Kit~~ The kit ~~as claimed of in claim 7, when it is subordinate to one of claims 5 or 6, characterised in that~~ wherein said eyelets (13) are delimited by the mesh of the fabric located in proximity to and along said edges.

9. (Currently Amended) ~~Kit~~ The kit ~~as claimed in one of claims 1 to 8, characterised in that~~ wherein said ~~the~~ chain stitch belongs to class 101 of standard NF G 05-002 of December 1982.

10. (Currently Amended) ~~Kit~~ The kit ~~as claimed in one of claims 1 to 9, characterised in that~~ wherein said implant (1) comprises at least one flexible pouch defining a predetermined

internal volume, said at least one flexible pouch being fitted with a connection means constructed to receive a connection unit (7) designed to be linked to a fluid source, for the purpose of effectuating expansion of said pouch inside the patient's body by filling with the fluid.

11. (Currently Amended) ~~Kit~~ The kit as claimed in one of claims 1 to 10, characterised in that wherein said case (2) is fitted with an optical examination means designed to visualise the inside of the patient's body and/or with an illumination means designed to illuminate the inside of the patient's body.

12. (Currently Amended) ~~Kit~~ The kit as claimed in one of claims 1 to 11, characterised in that wherein said case (2) is fitted with at least one graduation on its outer surface.

13. (Currently Amended) ~~Kit~~ The kit as claimed in one of claims 1 to 12, characterised in that wherein said at least a part of surface (5A) of case (2) is covered with a coating for the purpose of promoting the sliding of case (2) against an outer surface.

14. (Currently Amended) ~~Kit~~ The kit of as claimed in claim 13, characterised in that wherein said the coating is based on one or more at least one materials selected from among the following group comprising:

- biocompatible elastomer, of the silicone or polyurethane type,
- paraxylilene, of the parylene[®] sort,
- polyvinylpyrrolidone, and
- sodium hyaluronate.

15. (Currently Amended) ~~Kit~~ The kit as claimed in one of claims 1 to 14, characterised in that wherein said implant (1) belongs to the following is selected from the group consisting of:

- mammary implants,
- pectoral implants,
- leg implants,

——— arm implants, and

——— buttocks implants.

16. (Currently Amended) ~~Case- A case (2)~~ for introduction of a plastic surgery implant (1) into the body of a patient, said implant (1) presenting a deformable character making it possible for it to pass from a configuration for introduction into the body to a functional configuration within the body, comprising: asaid case (2)—being shaped to envelope said implant (1)—in the introduction configuration and being provided with an opener member (3)—that can be activated by positive action making it possible for it to pass, on the one hand, from a closed configuration, in which it confines implant (1)—in its introduction configuration to, on the other hand, an open configuration, in which it enables deformation of said implant (1)—into its functional configuration, said case (2)—comprising a locking means (4)—linked functionally to opener member (3)—and making it possible to immobilise by itself, without any external action on said means—(3), case (2)—in the closure configuration, said case (2)—~~being characterised in that~~wherein it is provided with a thread (12)—having a first portion sewn as a single-thread chain stitch so as to form said locking means—(4), and having a second portion (14)—that remains free and forms the opener member—(3), actionable by traction.

17. (Currently Amended) ~~Case- The case (2) as claimed in of~~ claim 16, ~~characterised in that~~ wherein it comprises a sheath (5) fitted with at least one lateral opening—(6) arranged along its length, said lateral opening (6) being closed by said locking means (4)—when case (2)—is in the closed configuration and said opening (6)—being cleared, in order to make possible the deformation of said implant (1)—into its functional configuration, when case (2)—is in the open configuration.

18. (Currently Amended) ~~Case- The case (2) of as claimed in—claim 17, characterised in that~~wherein said sheath (5) presents—has an essentially tubular shape and is split over all or part of its length, said split making up said lateral opening—(6).

19. (Currently Amended) ~~Case~~ The case (2) ~~as claimed in of~~ claim 18, ~~characterised in that~~ wherein said sheath (5) is formed from a fabric, the two opposite edges of which are interlocked by a locking means (4), in such a way that ~~the said~~ the said fabric is shaped in ~~an essentially a~~ generally tubular way.

20. (Currently Amended) ~~Case~~ The case (2) ~~of as claimed in~~ claim 19, ~~characterised in that~~ wherein said the fabric is constructed by weaving of threads principally based on polyamide, of the nylon[®] thread type.

21. (Currently Amended) ~~Case~~ The case (2) ~~of as claimed in one of~~ claims 18 to 20, ~~characterised in that~~ wherein the periphery of lateral opening (6) is fitted with at least one eyelets (13), designed to be assembled by single-thread chain stitch sewing in order to close said opening (6).

22. (Currently Amended) ~~Case~~ The case (2) ~~of as claimed in~~ claim 21 ~~when it is subordinate to one of claims 19 or 20~~, ~~characterised in that~~ wherein said eyelets (13) are formed by meshes of the fabric located in proximity to and along said edges.

23. (Currently Amended) ~~Case~~ The case (2) ~~of as claimed in one of~~ claims 16 to 22, ~~characterised in that~~ wherein it said case is made from a flexible material.

24. (Currently Amended) ~~Case~~ The case (2) ~~of as claimed in one of~~ claims 16 to 23, ~~characterised in that~~ wherein it said case is constructed from an elastic material.

25. (Currently Amended) ~~Case~~ The case (2) ~~of as claimed in one of~~ claims 16 to 24, ~~characterised in that~~ wherein said at least one part of ~~its~~ the surface of said case (5A) is covered with a coating for the purpose of promoting the sliding of case (2) against an outer surface.

26. (Currently Amended) ~~Case~~ The case (2) ~~as claimed in of claim 25, characterised in that~~ wherein said the coating has a base of ~~one or more of the~~ at least one materials selected from among the following group consisting of:

- biocompatible elastomer, of the silicone or polyurethane type,
- paraxylilene, of the parylene[®] type,
- polyvinylpyrrolidone, and
- sodium hyaluronate.

27. (Currently Amended) ~~Case~~ The case (2) ~~as claimed in one of claims 16 to 26, characterised in that~~ wherein said the chain stitch belongs to class 101 of standard NF G 05-002 of December 1982.

28. (Currently Amended) ~~Case~~ The case (2) ~~as claimed in one of claims 16 to 27, characterised in that~~ wherein it said case is fitted with an optical examination means designed to visualise the inside of the patient's body and/or with ~~a~~ an illumination means designed to illuminate the inside of the patient's body.

29. (Currently Amended) ~~Case~~ The case (2) ~~as claimed in one of claims 16 to 28, characterised in that~~ wherein said it case is fitted with at least one graduation on its outer surface.

30. (Currently Amended) ~~Case~~ The A case of claim 16 for introduction of a plastic surgery implant into the body of a patient, wherein said implant ~~being taken from among~~ is selected from the following group consisting of:

- mammary implant,
- pectoral implant,
- leg implant,
- arm implant, and
- buttocks implant.

~~in accordance with one of claims 16 to 29.~~

31. (Currently Amended) ~~Manufacturing~~ TheA manufacturing method for a kit for introduction of a plastic surgery implant (1) into the body of a patient, ~~in which~~comprising:

- ~~providing~~ a plastic surgery implant (1) ~~is supplied or manufactured~~, said implant presenting a deformable character that makes it possible for it to pass from a configuration for introduction into the body to a functional configuration within the body;

- ~~providing~~ a case (2) ~~is supplied or manufactured~~, designed to envelope said implant (1) in the introduction configuration, said case essentially presenting, when it is in the closed configuration, a sheath (5) shape,

~~said method being characterised in that~~wherein it comprises a step for insertion of~~inserting said~~ implant (1) into a sheath (5) in which;

———said implant (1) is shaped in the introduction configuration; and,

- ~~then progressively constraining said~~ implant (1) ~~is progressively constrained~~ along its length by means of a jig (23), ~~in such a way~~so as to reduce the transverse section-(S) of said implant (1), while simultaneously covering implant (1) ~~with sheath (5)~~ in the closed configuration.

32. (Currently Amended) ~~Method~~ The method of as claimed in claim 31, ~~characterised in that it comprises~~further comprising a step ~~during which~~providing said case (2) ~~is provided~~ with an opener member (3) that can be activated in order to make it possible for said case (2) to pass from a closed configuration, in which it is capable of confining said implant (1) in its introduction configuration, to an open configuration, in which it is capable of enabling the deformation of said implant (1) into its functional configuration, said method comprising a step for locking of ~~the said~~ case (2) in the closed configuration in which said case (2) is provided with a locking means (4) making it possible for it to immobilise by itself, without any external action on said means (3), case (2) in the closure configuration, and in which said locking means (4) is functionally linked to the opener member (3).

33. (Currently Amended) ~~Method~~ The method of as claimed in claim 32, ~~characterised in that~~wherein at the time of the~~during said~~ locking step, ~~the said~~ case is provided with a thread (12) ~~provided with a thread~~ (12) having a first portion sewn as a single-thread chain stitch so as

to form said locking means (4), and having a second portion (14) that remains free and forms the opener member (3), actionable by traction.

34. (Currently Amended) ~~Use~~ The use of a chain stitch in accordance with class 101 of standard NF G 05-002 of December 1982 as a locking means (4) of a case (2) for introduction of a plastic surgery implant (1) into the body of a patient.

35. (New) The kit of claim 3, wherein said sheath (5) is constructed from a flexible material.